FUN UPON FUN:

OR, THE

Comical Merry TRICKS OF LEPER the TAYLOR.

PART I.

GLASGOW:
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FUN UPON FUN.

LEPER'S father lived in a village about six miles from Glaſgow, and died when Leper was but very young, he left a widow and three children, two daughters and a ſon, and Leper being the youngeſt, was greatly idolized by his mother, who was a good ſoft-natured woman, very induſtrious, and followed the buſineſs of bleaching of cloth.

As Leper grew up, he turned a very miſchievous boy, playing tricks on the neighbourhood, ſuch as, tying cats to dogs tails, breaking hens legs, ſtopping peoples lumbs or chimney-tops; ſo that his poor mother was ſadly vex'd with complaints againſt him.

To get him kept from miſchief, ſhe prevailed with a taylor to take him an apprentice, he ſettled and was very peaceable for ſometime, until he had got ſo much of the trade on his fingers-ends, as he might paſs for a journey-man, and then he was indifferent whether he ſtay'd with his maſter or not; his miſtreſs gave him but very little meat when they wrought at home, ſo he loved beſt to be in other houſes, where he got both meat and diverſion.

Leper being reſolved on revenge againſt his miſtreſs, for her thin kail, no kitchen and little bread; for though fleſh was boiled in the pot, none for poor Leper and his maſter, but a little bite on Sabbaths, and all the bones were kept, and put in the pot, to make the broth through the week. Leper perceived always when ſhe took off the pot, ſhe turned her back to them and took out the fleſh, and ſet it on a ſhelf within her own bed; one night

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after work, he ſteals out a pan, cuts a piece of fleſh out of a dead horſe, then goes to a lime-kiln and boils it; next day his maſter being from home, his landlady and him being in the houſe, after ſhe had ſet off the pot as uſual, and taken out her bit of good beef, he goes out for ſome time, and then comes in, ſaying, The miniſter's laſs is wanting you to go directly and ſpeak to her miſtreſs, away ſhe goes in all haſte, Leper runs and takes away her bit of good beef, and lays down his horſe-fleſh, and knowing ſhe would ſoon return in a paſſion, and ſit down with a ſoſſe in her cuſhion'd chair as ſhe uſed, he takes a great big prin and ſtaps it ſtraight up through the cuſhion, with its head on the chair and the point to her back-ſide; in ſhe comes in a rage, and down ſhe ſits with all her weight on the prin-point, and there roars out, Murder, murder, for ſhe was ſticket through the a-ſe, the neighbours came running in, and Leper got out with his bit of good beef, leaving the wives to doctor his landlady's doup as they pleaſed; he ſtill denied the doing of it, and his maſter believed it might happen accidentally, but the Houdie was very oft to be had before the hole was got heal again; and his landlady by eating of that horſe-beef, took a loathing at fleſh, ſo Leper and his maſter got all the beef to eat ever after, and his landlady turned one of the kindeſt miſtreſſes a prentice could wiſh for.

There was a neighbour-wife on which Leper uſed to play tricks ſometimes, for which ſhe came and complained to his maſter, and got him ſeverely beaten ſeveral times; Leper reſolved to be revenged on her, ſo one day he came to the backſide of her houſe, (no body being within but herſelf) and took up a big ſtone, and runs it along the rough wall with all his force, which rored like thunder in the inſide of the houſe, and which frighted

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the wife ſo, that ſhe thought the houſe was tumbling down about her ears, upon which ſhe ran out and ſat down at a diſtance, looking when the houſe would fall down, till her huſband came home, to whom ſhe told the above ſtory, 'Hout daft Tapie, 'ſaid he) the houſe will ſtand theſe hundred years,' ſo by his perſuaſion they both went into the houſe, Leper (knowing they were both in) comes back and plays the ſame trick over again, which frighted the goodman alſo ſo much, that he cried out, 'Run 'Maggy run, for my heart plays a' pitty patty,' and they would not lodge in the houſe any more, till the maſons convinced them of its ſufficiency.

There was another neighbour who had a ſnarling curr dog, which bit Leper's leg; Leper reſolved to be revenged on the dog, and ſo, one night he catches the dog and carries him to the kirk, where the rope of the bell hang upon the outſide, ſo with his garter he tied the dog's fore-foot to the rope, and left him hanging; the dog ſtruggling to get free, ſet the bell a ringing, which alarmed the whole village, every one cried out, 'Wonderful 'ſirs! Wonderful ſirs! the deil is ringing the bell.' When they ſaw the black Colley hanging at the rope, I true it ſet the miniſter and all the people to their prayers; but Leper fearing he would be found out by his garter, came to the miniſter's ſide, and aſked the reverend gentleman, what was the matter? indeed my bairn (ſaid he) its the deil ringing the kirk-bell; ſays Leper, I'll go and ſee him, for I never ſaw the deil, the miniſter cry'd, Stop that mad laddie, but Leper ran and louſed the dog, crying, It's ſuch a man's dog, which had the rope in his teeth, they all cry'd out, 'The deil is in the 'dog, the deil is in the dog,' and took up ſtones and fell'd poor colley, and the devil got the blame of making the dog ring the bell, this ſpread Leper's fame,

fame, for being one of the wiſeſt and moſt courageous taylors that was in all the kingdom; and many ſhaking their heads, ſaid, 'It was a pity he 'was a taylor, but a captain or general of an army, 'as the devil could not fear him.'

After this a farmer in the neighbourhood, hearing the fame of Leper, how he had frighted the deil frae being a bell-man, ſent for him to an alehouſe, and drank with him very heartily, and told him that he was ſadly born down with the ſpirit of jealouſy againſt his wife, on ſuſpicion of being too free with a ſervant-lad ſhe had before, and if he would keep it ſecret and learn him how to find it out, he would give his mother a load of meal, to which Leper and him agrees, he gave the poor ſuppoſed cuckold inſtructions how to behave. So home he goes and feigns himſelf to be very ſick, and every day worſe and worſe, taking death to him, bleſſes his three ſmall children, and charges his wife not to marry until his children could do ſomething for themſelves: This hypocritical woman takes the roaring, a-ha, marry! She would never marry! No, no, there ſhould never man ly by her ſide, nor kiſs her lips after thee, my lamb Johny.—Then he acts the dying man as well as poſſible he could, the neighbours were called in, and he's fair o'er-ſeen as the old ſaying is, before good neighbours: the ſorrowful widow made a ſad lament, wrung her hands, and tearing her hair,——the reverend women about began to dreſs the corps, aſked her for a ſhirt, Ay, ay, ſaid ſhe, He has twa new linen ſarks, and there is an auld-an in the bottom of the kiſt it nae body can wear, juſt tak it, ony thing is good enough for the grave; well, ſaid they, we muſt have ſome linen for a winding-ſheet, a'well co'ſhe, I hae twa cut o' linen in the kiſt, but there is a pair of auld linen ſheets hol'd in the mids,

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may do well enough, I had need to be carefu', I'm a poor widow the day, wi' three ſma' bairns. Ay, well, the corps is dreſs'd, and laid on the top of a big cheſt, while the neighbours ſat by her condoling her misfortune, and how the funeral reaſins were to be provided; ſaid one, the coffin muſt be ſeen about firſt, Ay, ay, ſaid ſhe, he has ſome new deals in the barn he bought to make a bed of, but we'll no break them, there is the auld barn door and the chaff-kiſt will do well enough, ony thing's good enough to gang to the grave; but, O co'ſhe, ſend for Sandy my honeſt auld ſervant, and he'll ſee every thing right done, I'll tell him where he'll get ſiller to do ony thing we, he's the lad it will not ſee me wrang'd; then Sandy comes wraying his face and rubbing his eyes, O Sandy, Sandy, there is a ſad alteration here, and ba-a-a ſhe cries, like a bitten calf, O Sirs, will ye gang a' butt the houſe till I tell Sandy what to do, butt they goes, and there ſhe fell a kiſſing of Sandy, and ſaid, Now my dear, the auld channering ghaiſt is awa', and we'll get our will o' ither; be as haining of every thing as ye can, for thou kens its a' thy ain; but the corps ſiſter and ſome other people came in, and ben they came to ſee the corps, lifts the cloath from off his face, and ſeeing him all in a pour of ſweat, ſaid, Hegh, he is a bonny corp, and a lively like colour, when he could no longer contain to carry on the joke, but up he got amongſt them, a deal of the people ran for it, and his wife cried out, O my dear do ye ken me? ay, you baſe jade and whore, better than ever I did. Jumps to the floor and gets his ſtaff, and runs after Sandy, and catches him in the fields a little from the houſe, gives him a hearty beating, never tell'd him for what; returns to the houſe, eat and drank with his ſiſter and neighbours who had come to ſee his corps; poor Sandy went home with a ſkinful of terror, and a ſorting

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of ſore bones, took a ſore fever, and died in a few days after, ſo he got quit of his cockler, and Leper's mother got her meal.

Leper's mother was a careful induſtrious wife, but as the byword is, 'A working mother makes a da-'ly daughter,' and ſo it happened here, for ſhe had two idle glaket ſluts of daughters, that would do nothing but ly in their bed in the morning, till (as the ſaying is,) 'The ſun was like to burn a hole in 'their backſides;' the old woman being at this time buſy bleaching ſome cloth, was very early at work in the mornings, and Leper's patience was worn out with the lazineſs of his two ſiſters, and he reſolved to play a trick on them for their reformation; ſo he goes and gets a mortcloth and ſpreads it on the bed above them, and ſends the dead-bell through the town, inviting the people to his ſiſters burial the next day at four o'clock afternoon, for they had died very ſuddenly; this brought all the neighbour-wives in, who one after another lifted the mort-cloth, and ſaid with a great ſigh, 'They're gone to 'their reſt, a ſudden call indeed!' Their aunt hearing of this ſudden news, came running in all haſte, and coming through the green where the jades mother was at work, who was ignorant of the ſtory, ſhe cries out, 'Fy upon you woman, fy upon you,' ſays ſhe, What's the matter ſiſter, what's the matter? 'I think you may let your work ſtand for ae 'day, when your daughters are lying corps.' My bairns corps! I am ſure they went to bed heal and fiar laſt night. But I tell you (ſays the other) the dead-bell has been through the town, warning the folk to the burial, then the mother cries out, 'O the 'villain, O the villain that did not ſend me word.' So they both ran, and the mother as ſoon as ſhe entred the houſe, flies into the bed, crying, 'O my 'bairns, my dear bairns!' on which the ſluts riſes up

up in a conſternation, to the great ſurprize of the beholders, and to the great diverſion of the whole town, and to the great mortification of the girls, who thought ſhame to ſet their noſes out of doors.

Leper and his maſter went to a gentleman's houſe to work, where there was a ſaucy houſe-keeper, who had more ignorance and pride, than good ſenſe and manners; ſhe domineered over her fellow-ſervants in a tyrannical manner; Leper reſolved to mortify her pride: So he finds an ant's neſt, and takes their white eggs, grinds them into a powder, and puts them into the diſh her ſupper-ſowings was to be put in, ſhe takes her ſupper: As ſhe was covering the table, the imock-powder began to operate, and ſhe let a great fart, well done Margaret, ſays the laird, ſhe runs away for ſhame, but before ſhe turned herſelf round, ſhe gives another raird, My faith, ſays the laird, Margaret, your arſe would take a cautioner; before ſhe got out of the chamber-door, ſhe lets fly another crack; then ſhe goes to order he fellow-ſervant to give the laird his ſupper, but before ſhe could give the neceſſary directions, ſhe gave fire again, which ſet them all a laughing; ſhe runs to a room by herſelf, and there ſhe played away her one gun battery ſo faſt, as ſhe had been ſieging the Havanna. The laird and lady came to hear the fun, they were all like to ſplit their ſides at proud Maggy, ſo next morning ſhe left the place, to the great joy of her fellow ſervants.

[*The End of the Firſt Part.*]

N. B. In the Second Part, will be a deal of very diverting Stories done by LEPER, when he was a Journeyman and Maſter.

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